Saint Louis Audubon Bulletin

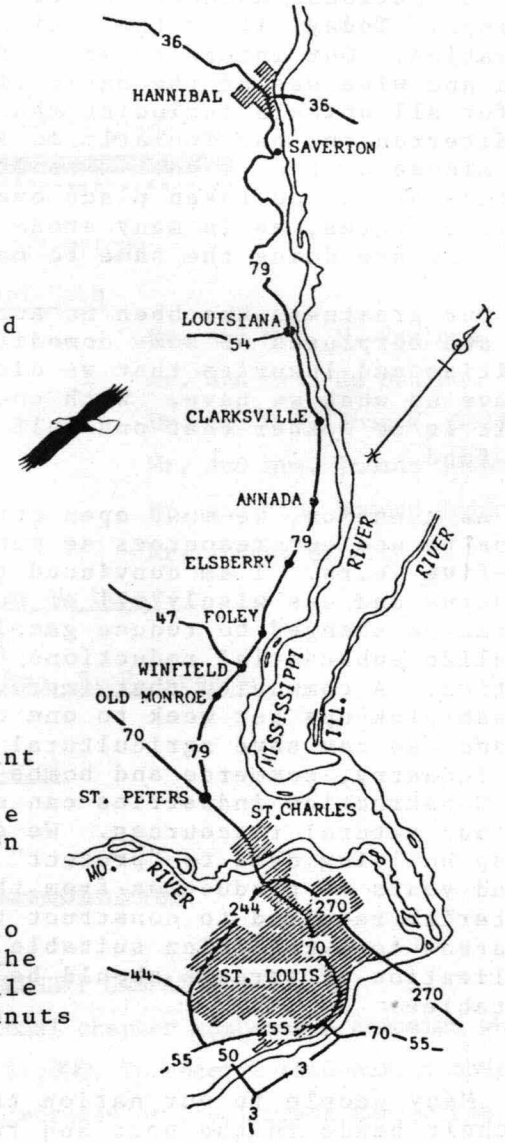
Volume 41, Number 4 February - March 1975

EAGLES-EAGLES-EAGLES

Again the St. Louis Audubon Society has been asked to participate in the Mississippi Valley Winter Bald Eagle Count. This will be the 8th time we have taken part.

The date is Saturday, February 8th, and the area is from Winfield Dam, north to Saverton.

This is your great opportunity to see the majestic Bald Eagles and participate in an important count. We will have the able leadership of McCune Didley, and Gus Artus of Louisiana and Kurt Wesseling, Field Trip Chairman of the St. Louis Audubon Society. They will map the area and different groups will cover specified areas.

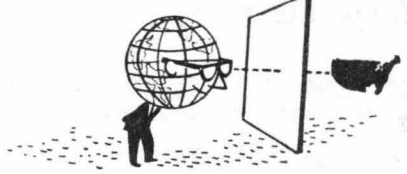


The meeting place will be the plant of "Kamp Togs" in Clarksville, Missouri at 8:00 a.m. Clarksville is 1½ hours drive from the Clayton Court House. It is reached by following Interstate 70 to St. Peters. Then north on Route 79 to Clarksville. "Kamp Togs" is on the left-hand side entering Clarksville from the south. Coffee and doughnuts will await you at "Kamp Togs".

COME ONE - COME ALL

For further information call 961-6687 or 965-8642.

THE AUDUBON SCENE



February 1, 1975

As I sit attempting to collect my thoughts and write, I find it easier and more pleasant to watch the snowfall and the ten or twelve species of birds as they fly back and forth outside the picture window, and listen to the quiet sizzling of logs buring in the fire place.

The National Audubon Society has come a long way from its early beginnings. Today, it is the nation's largest and strongest voice in conservation. Our interests and efforts are directed toward the protection and wise use of the basic life support systems, air,soil and water for all animals including man. During World War II, while in the Mediterranean, particularly in Italy and Greece, I was impressed by the misuse of that land. I realized that the abuse of the once productive areas had taken place over a two thousand year period. In the United States, as in many areas of accomplishment of "better and faster", we are doing the same to much of our land in two hundred years.

Our greatness has been no accident. We have had plenty of everything, and surpluses of some comodities have permitted us to buy those necessities and luxuries that we did not have within our borders. Our land gave us what we have. With one-half of the world's total arable soil, it is no wonder that one-half of the world's population looks to us for food.

As a nation, we must open our eyes to the fact that we cannot continue to use our resources as wastefully as we have in the past twenty-five years. I am convinced that we must alter our living habits to conserve and use wisely all of our rescouces. Transportation patterns can be changed to reduce gasoline consumption. Garbage collection can realize substantial reductions by increasing the efficiency of waste collection. A community that improves its routing and switches from two trash pick-ups per week to one can save 29% of its fuel requirements. Wise land use can save agricultural land for crop production, and can locate industry, commerce and homes where municipal services are available. Construction industries can use reprocessed material and save 25% of our natural rescources. We should graduate from the "beaver era" and stop building dams to "protect" farmland, because it would take five thousand years of production from that farmland to replace the energy and material required to construct the dam. We should return strip-mined areas to a condition suitable for farming, pasture or forest. Channelization of streams should be stopped because it lowers the water tables.

Many people in our nation think that if they close their eyes, hide their heads in the sand and refuse to read the papers, the energy shortages will go away. Because they are two or three generations away from the land, they believe that their food will come from someplace-- it has always been at the super market when they needed it.

It is time to tell our representatives in Congress that strong conservation measures must be taken now, by them as well as by us. I, for one, am tired of the casual, half-hearted "you scratch my back"- I'll scratch yours", piecemeal, contradictory legislation that is being passed. Even good legislation has had its effectiveness ruined by misdirected regulations and division of responsibilities. The Corps of Engineers channelizes streams, the Soil Conservation Service builds ponds, the Bureau of Reclamation drains marshes and swamps, and the Fish and Wildlife Service buys land to flood and make marshes and swamps. All are part of the same government!

THIS IS OUR LAND. Let us tell our representatives what we think. Tell them to use our resources wisely even if it costs us dollars and a change in our life style. There must be something left for those who follow us. Your message will be heard. My representative told me that he has had as few as six to zero letters from his constituents on some important issues. So write when you feel strongly about energy conservation and land use!

J. Marshall Magner, President

SANCTUARY FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

In Memory of Earl Hath

Mrs. Gerome Chambers
Mr. E. G. Cherbonnier
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cohen
Mrs. Gerry Cohorl
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Creel
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Dr. and Mrs. John W. Seddon
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Shepherd
Mr. and Mrd. Edmund Rogers
Mr. August Ulbrich

In Memory of Mr. Albert W. Bolay

Mrs. Albert W. Bolay

In Memory of Dr. and Mrs. E. E. Freeman

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Freeman

In Memory of Nancy Roedel

Mr. and Mrs. J. Roedel

NATIONAL AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

National Audubon has just announced a national chapter membership campaign which could benefit the St. Louis Audubon Society by $1,000. To receive this sum, a chapter in each region must show the largest numerical increase or the largest percentage increase. If a chapter leads in both categories, it will receive both prizes. Second prizes of $500 are also to be awarded.

Membership applications eligible for this campaign will be those received from January 1 through June 30, 1975. Gary Giessow, membership chairman, (994-7570) will be glad to help with information and forms.

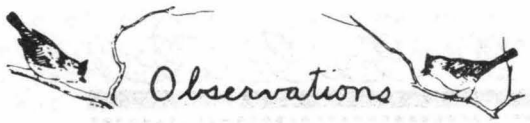
ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Officers and eight Directors of the St. Louis Audubon Society will be elected at the annual meeting of the Society in May.

Members of the Nominating Committee are:

Miss Elizabeth Golterman, Chairman
Route 3, Hillsboro, 63050 (1-479-4120)
Mr. Kyrle Boldt
12660 Post Oak Road, St. Louis, 63141 (965-2382)
Mrs. William E. Wiese
711 North Taylor, Kirkwood, 63122 (965-2310)

The Nominating Committee requests your suggestions and opinions.



A REVIEW OF ST. LOUIS AREA 1974 BIRDING

J. Earl Comfort

A review of the St. Louis area 1974 birding within a radius of fifty miles of the city shows a composite list of 280 species. Topping this excellent list were the warblers with 37 species, followed by the equally large finch family with 34, and the shorebirds with 33. There were 20 kinds of ducks (below par) while hawks and their allies contributed 16 species.

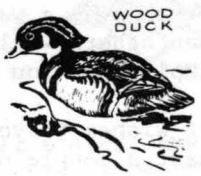
Using the order in the American Ornithologists Union (ACU), our ten best birds were eared grebe, Louisiana heron, Swainson's hawk, ruff, red phalarope, black-legged kittiwake,saw-whet owl, western kingbird, Bohemian waxwing, and common redpoll. Based on its first modern area record in Missouri, the red phalarope was the bird of the year.

Areas visited most often were the Alton Dam area and the August A. Busch Wildlife area in St. Charles County; and the Calhoun Division of the of the Mark Twain Wildfowl Refuge in Calhoun County, Illinois. During the spring warbler migration season Forest Park and Shaw's Garden in St. Louis and the Arboretum in Franklin County were thoroughly checked. The St. Louis Audubon Society sponsored four Forest Park and two Shaw's Garden spring bird walks for beginners. These annual events are extremely popular.

Other highlights of the interesting year were the Audubon and Webster Groves Nature Study Society outings at Sunny Ranch in Warren County. This is the home of Burrell and Ruby Pickering, who operate this sanctuary for the benefit of wildlife, including many unfortunates in need of a haven. The cooperation of couples like the Pickerings, and of organizations like the Audubon, the Webster Groves Nature Study Society, and the Great Rivers Chapter of the Illinois Audubon made possible one of our best years from the standpoint of pleasant nature ventures. Shorebirding and warblering furnished the most exciting birding. Belated reports may add even more birds to the 1974 list.

There was a bumper crop of 1974 area birders who compiled 200 or more species within a 50-mile radius of the city. Joe Eades was high with 249, closely followed by Kathryn Arhos with 247. Some others were Ron Goetz, 243; Dick Anderson, 235; Viola Bucholtz, 234; Earl Comfort, 233; Rose Ann Bodman, 230; Bob Shea, 230; Dave Jones, 229; Terry Barker, 226; Kyrle Boldt, 226, George Barker, 225; Tim Barksdale, 223; Dr. Ralph Laffey, 221; Katy Barksdale, 220; Claudia Spener, 219; Yvonne Balsiger, 217; Jack Van Benthuysen, 215; Janet Neilson, 214; Helen Wuestenfeld, 214; Vi Hallett, 211; Andy Bromet, 208; Vivian Liddell, 207; Dave Symes, 207; Floyd Hallett, 205; Mildred, 204; and Sallie Phillips, 200. Sallie's 200th bird was an evening grosbeak seen late in December.

LETTER TO A DUCK



Dear Woodie:

I'll never forget our first meeting, you and me. With your mate gliding demurely behind, you swam past a boy watching from the bank of a city park lagoon. Though you were neither wild nor free, to me who had seen wood ducks only in picture books, you were the essence of wild beauty. You attuned me to a new and different world.

It takes the threads of many small incidents to sew up lasting impressions. Thus I recall just as clearly our next meeting, in your chosen haunts, where you were truly wild and free. It occurred during my baptism into the world of an Ozark stream, during my first float on the currently embattled Meramec River.

That was some years ago. How many times have I since floated the Meramec and glimpsed your swift flight down around the next bend? How many times has your mate of a few weeks earlier guided her June ducklings out of my view, under the riverbank or into a maze of water willows? More times than I can recall, yet never often enough.

A natural Ozark stream, graced by you and your wild neighbors, is a place worthy of many return trips for both of us. I have seen you run the riffles and guessed you enjoyed it as much as I. Your twisting flight, among giant sycamores which frame the quite stretches, is also a flight into my heart. Your plaintive whistle, when it greets me through early morning mists over a gravel bar campsite, is music to my soul. You're really quite a boy.

I'm writing all this, Woodie, because I admire you and because we have a problem. The Meramec River is about to be dammed. Some may consider this a great thing. Included would be the engineers, the builders, the speedboaters and the water skiiers; I'm not so sure about fishermen. But you and I will be losers.

The project, when completed, will wipe out many miles of giant sycamores and other trees with nesting holes. Water levels, according to plan, will fluctuate 34 feet up and down between normal pool and flood pool; this will mean mid-summer mudflats instead of cool, deeply shaded banks. Neither of us will benefit from this.

Neither will the tom turkey I spotted last summer, across the Meramec from the gravel bar at the Huzzah's mouth. I mention this, Woodie, because I feel you should know that portions of the Huzzah and Courtois streams will also be affected by the dam. Altogether, your habitat will be diminished by more than 50 river miles.

The real problem for us, though is that nothing can be built to replace the stream miles lost to dams and their impoundments. And if, all the Meramec Basin plans are fulfilled, portions of the Bourbeuse and Big rivers will also become slackwater lakes. It is all mapped out in the interests of public recreation, flood control and general economic progress. It might be a good thing for some people, but for you, Woodie, there are no benefits. Modern human progress is good for neither Ozark streams nor wood ducks. Your special world is constantly being diminished, not only by dams, but also by another feat of man's engineering-- a process known as channelization which makes gutters out of rivers in order to make cornfields out of wooded oxbows. Here again, as with the damming of Ozark streams, we are both likely to be losers. Humans do need corn for ultimate belly nourishment-- and even certain ducks may benefit-- but how will we nourish our souls when all floodplains become cornfields, or big impoundments, or monuments to industrial progress?

Pardon me, Woodie, for even asking that question; you would not be here then and such matters have no meaning to you anyway. Meanwhile, I realize you can't change your nature and adapt to fluctuating impoundments any more than engineers

and dam promoters can adapt their plans to your particular needs. Yet I wish that, somehow, there was a way for you to reach into other human hearts as you have into mine. Then others would know what I've learned over the years from you and your river; simply that you are both irreplaceable.

Best wishes to you and yours, Woodie, and I'll look for you on the Meramec for at least a couple of more summers.

Your admirer,

James P. Jackson

STOP THE POISON SPREADERS !

Our National Audubon Society has alerted the Chapters about developments which could annul laws restricting the use of poisons and inhumane methods in the control of predators.

The Wool Growers Association is going directly to President Ford trying to convince him that all the horrors of coyote controls, so recently ourlawed, should be reinstated. These include cyanide cartridges which explode in the mouth of an animal, "toxicants", such as compound 1080, strychnine and other niceties in the arsenal of the wool-growers. Recent scientific research shows convincingly that coyotes play a very small part in the mortality of lambs. The coyotes prefer small rodents, and decimation of the coyote has brought incredible proliferation of rodents.

More coyotes would be beneficial to a balanced Nature. We could readily do with fewer sheep, those"four-legged locusts" of John Muir. Their close cropping severely damages the land, wool has largely been replaced by man-made fibers, and their meat plays a minor part in our national nutrition.

The unsupervised, indiscriminate spreading of poisons tortures to death innumerable domestic and wild animals besides the coyote. Nobody can control the application of the poisons, and for that reason they remain unavoidable by law.

Please CARE, and write a few lines to:

Hon. Rogers C. B. Morton, Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240

President Gerald Ford, The White House, Washington, D. C.

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS

The St. Louis Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society will present the third film in the Wildlife Series on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, and the fourth film on FRIDAY, MARCH 21. Both will be presented at 8:15 P.M. at The Ethical Society, 9001 Clayton Road. The films are open to the public without charge.

On February 7, James D. Hammond will narrate his film, "Malheur: Marsh, Meadow and Mountain", telling the story of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. He spent five years filming the wildlife at the refuge and scenes of Trumpeter Swans, American Avocets and pronghorn antelopes are complemented with a look at the rich human history of this land. His film will carry synchronized live sound.

Jim Hammond grew up near the shores of the Stillwater Wildlife Refuge in Nevada and is a former New York Times correspondent in Asia.

On March 21, Harry Pederson will present his film, "Four Fathom World", an enthralling undersea adventure filmed among the Bahama reefs. As the divers get acquainted with squids, octopuses and sharks, viewers find themselves getting thoroughly hooked on Mr. Pederson's humor and obvious affection for his finny friends. Also featured are the trunkfish, hogfish, jawfish, green turtles, and a fascinating sequence on the sargassum weed.

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SAINT LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER MEETING — FRIDAY, MAY 16, 1975

SESQUICENTENNIAL ROOM, BUSCH MEMORIAL CENTER, GRAND & LACLEDE — SAVE THE DATE

A rare treat is in store for those who attend, since our speaker will be LEN ROBINSON, well-known Australian free lance naturalist and wildlife photographer. He was a member of the 1961 expedition which re-located, on the edge of the Simpson Desert, the Eyrean Grass Wren which had not been reported since its original discovery in 1874. He has led parties of overseas visitors on journeys to see the wildlife of Australia and New Guinea in natural surroundings, and has held such honorary positions as Assistant Inspector of the Victorian Fisheries and President of the Bird Observers Club.

PLANNING FOR FLOODS

This superb film produced by the Environmental Defense Fund depicts the disastrous effects of damming and channelizing rivers. Stressed are the Rapid City disaster and the Mississippi valley floods of 1973. The script for the film was written by Dr. Lincoln Brower, a professor of biology at Amherst College in Massachusetts and producer of the award winning film, The Flooding River. Hugh Downs is the Narrator.

Members of the Sierra Club will be present to participate in the discussion, and will show colored slides of other rivers such as the Meramec for which so many dams are planned. There is some hope that people will start planning sensibly for the use of flood planes, which were meant to be flooded instead of being protected by high levees and dams. The film shows Rapid City one year after the flood and finds people working for flood plane zoning.

calendar

THURSDAYS - MIDWEEK BIRDING FIELD TRIPS - CALL Rose Ann Bodman 961-2583
Helen Bowman 531-1748

Tuesday, February 4, and Tuesday, March 4, 7:45 P.M. AUDUBON NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION Clayton Federal Savings and Loan Auditorium, Elm and Lockwood, Webster Groves.

Friday, February 7, 8:15 P.M. AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM - MALHEUR: MARSH, MEADOW AND MOUNTAIN Speaker: James D. Hammond. Ethical Society, 9001 Clayton Road. See page 7 for details.

Saturday, February 8, 8:00 A.M. EAGLE COUNT Clarksville, Mo. Assemble at 8:00 for doughnuts and coffee. Actual count begins promptly at 9:00. See p. 1.

Tuesday, February 11, and Tuesday, March 11, 8:00 P.M. WGNSS BOTANY GROUP Webster Groves Trust Company, Lockwood and Gore. For details call Art Christ 352-2750.

Friday, February 14, 8:00 P.M. JOINT MEETING OF ST. LOUIS AUDUBON AND WGNSS St. Louis County Library, 1640 S. Lindbergh. The film "Planning for Floods" will be shown, followed by pertinent color slides and discussion. See p. 7 for more details.

Saturday, February 15, 8:00 A.M. ORNITHOLOGY FIELD TRIP Busch Wildlife Area. For details call Vi Hallett 821-6941

Saturday, February 22, 8:30 A.M. ORNITHOLOGY FIELD TRIP Alton Dam. Contact Vi Hallett for details - 821-6941

Tuesday, February 25 and Tuesday, March 25 10:00 A.M. and 7:30 P.M. WGNSS LOWER PLANTS GROUP Home of Lillian Nagel and Peg Feigley, 5616 Oleatha, St. Louis 481-7331

Friday, February 28 and Friday, March 28 , 8:00 P.M. WGNSS ASTRONOMY GROUP Clayton Federal Savings and Loan Auditorium, Elm & Lockwood, Webster Groves. Leader - Art Lieser 487-5674

Saturday, March 1, 8:00 A.M. ORNITHOLOGY FIELD TRIP Meet under Dove at West County Shopping Center. For details call Vi Hallett 821-6941.

Friday, March 14, 8:00 P.M. WGNSS INDOOR NATURE ADVENTURE St. Louis County Library, 1640 S. Lindbergh.

Saturday, March 15, 8:30 A.M. ORNITHOLOGY FIELD TRIP Alton Dam For details call Vi Hallett, 821-6941.

Sunday, March 16, 10:00 A.M. AUDUBON NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WALK Washington State Park. Meet at parking lot in front of dining hall.

Friday, March 21, 8:15 P.M. AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM - FOUR FATHOM WORLD by Harry Pederson. See p. 7 for details.

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The Audubon Society has an answering service. The number is 727-2311

Computers and zip codes have changed procedures. When the renewal notice is received, please return the punch card with your check directly to National Audubon in envelope provided. This eliminates delays.

Check the Membership You Desire (includes Audubon Magazine)

___ Student	$ 7.00	___ Supporting	$50.00
___ Regular	15.00	___ Contributing	100.00
___ Family	18.00	___ Donor	250.00
___ Sustaining	30.00	___ Patron	500.00
		___ Life	$1,000.00

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Please Print
Address _____
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Your Local Chapter: ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY #2602

IMPORTANT: Indicate whether this is a new membership or a renewal payment by checking the proper box
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